



ROTARY CLUB OF BENICIA

October 24 — Benicia Master Gardeners



Gene Eckenstam and Mo Moench

Benicia Master Gardeners

Great trees for this area are persimmon, citrus, pomegranate, olive, crepe myrtle, maples, lions tale, pittosporum, tomatoes, squash, chard and kale. Another project that Mo is involved in — is working with Liberty High School students in the greenhouse that has been supported by our Benicia Rotary. Thank you Mo and Gene!

Gene Eckenstam and Mo Moench, both Benicia Master Gardeners, spoke to us about this program. Gene gave us an overview of what is involved in being a Master Gardener and how he first became involved. After you become a Master Gardener, 25 hours of public service plus 12 hours of continuing education are required annually. The primary purpose of the Master Gardeners program is to provide horticultural information to the public. The Benicia Master Gardeners operate under the auspices of the University of California at Davis. Any information that Master Gardeners provide to the public needs to be science based. The group also focuses on water conservation and organic gardening. At this time, there are 96 Master Gardeners in Solano County, 21 of which are in Benicia. Mo presented a list of “all star” plants that do well in Benicia — plants such as kale, chard, Spanish sage and Pittosporum. As Mo mentioned, Benicia is a premium growing region — and all parts of Benicia (and surrounding areas) have microclimates — even within your own yard.

Noteworthy!

- * Allan Frederick, the Benicia High School golf coach for girls' and boys' teams, attended Rotary to receive a check from our club for \$1500 — \$750 for each team. The money that our club donated was raised in our very successful golf tournament in August. Some of Mr. Frederick's students



helped work during our tournament. We wish Mr. Frederick and his teams a successful year of golf!

- *Our own André Lewis earned his blue button at Rotary today. Sue Fisher Jones was Andre's sponsor. Glad to have you as a member, André!

- *Steve McClure recently presented checks to David Passalacqua, Native Sons of California, and Ken Gonsalves, BDES. Again, this money that our club contributed to these organizations was raised during our August golf tournament.

Native Sons allowed us to take over this tournament last year which has been our greatest fundraiser. A big thank you to both groups for their assistance.

- * Lorie Tinfow, our new Benicia City Manager, is also our newest member. Again, Mario Giuliani was her sponsor. Having been a member of a Rotary Club in Pacifica, some members from that club joined us for lunch and were able to present Lorie with her Paul Harris. Welcome, Lorie. We are glad that you joined our club.



- * You have not had a bulletin for three weeks since your publisher was in Hawaii. I wanted to share the view from my condo!



- *Why is Jim Trimble standing outside his home?

- *What is wrong with this picture of Steve McClure?



Happy Dollars!

- * Jim Trimble's current passion is to raise money for our holiday meals!
- * Alan Schwartzman was talking and was fined \$1.
- * Steve McClure donated \$10 because of the LA Dodgers.
- * Alan flew from SFO to Tampa. The flight was cancelled, but he was able to fly the next day seated in row 30 with absolutely no room. His bag was misplaced and did not arrive when he did, but on a positive side, he was able to visit with six friends he had not seen in 40 years. He donated money for his happiness.
- * Jim Trimble donated \$100 for holiday meals.
- * Sue Fisher Jones was happy because she was having company coming and was taking a day off, so she donated money.
- * André Lewis was \$100 happy to be invited November 3 to a breakfast at Valero.
- * Jim Lessenger donated \$20 for holiday meals.
- * Darrell Doi donated \$20 and talked about Top Soccer, a program for kids with special needs.
- * Reg Page donated \$5 because he had not yet paid for one of John Blunt's candy bars.

Rotary Holiday Party



Yes, we are having a party to celebrate the holidays. *More information soon.*

